

Oban High School

School Review February 2012



Dear Parent /Guardian,

Invitation to join our School Review Discussion Forum on Learning and Teaching

Oban High School regularly works with external bodies in an effort to ensure that we continue to provide a high standard of care and education for all our youngsters. During the last 3 to 4 years we have seen the HMIe involved in helping us to evaluate areas such as learning and teaching; meeting pupil needs; child protection and pastoral care; community partnerships; continuing professional development; and leadership. These areas all received positive (in some areas very good / excellent) comments, and of course suggestions for improvement.

The SQA regularly send people to moderate and validate our departments and we annually meet the requirements, albeit occasionally after following some guidance. Argyll and Bute Council, through our "Partner Quality Improvement Officer", also supports and challenges our endeavours through regular meetings with staff and through the annual assessment of our attainment and achievement report.

We have also engaged the services of *Investors in People* to independently assess the quality of the leadership and management within our organisation and we were pleased by their recognition of our effort, and to receive *Silver Accreditation*; uncommon for an educational establishment.

However, we have also been working on our own quality assurance framework that helps us examine and measure our effectiveness in implementing national educational policy and school based initiatives, for example the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence policy, or our own Pathways and Leadership Programmes. We use the HMIe's guide to quality improvement, entitled *How Good is Our School*, to regularly review our progress. We analyse our results, carry out classroom observations and pupil, parent and staff views in an effort to ensure we are well informed with regard to how well we are meeting our Vision and, in a more detailed way, our Improvement Plan targets.

Following on from the work we did with HMIe in June 2011, where we were the first pilot school for a new HMIe professional engagement model; we wish to carry out a whole school self-evaluation of the learning and teaching across every department. To do this we have established a School Review Steering Group which includes: members of Argyll and Bute's Quality Improvement Team; two external Head Teachers (one from Highland Authority); two Depute Head Teachers; two members of the Parent Council; two S6 Clan Leaders; the Principal Teacher of Science (inspected by HMIe in June); and myself.

This Steering Group was joined during a whole day planning forum this week by an additional number of pupils and teachers to work on questions and observation points necessary to lead two subsequent days in the review process. On the 23rd January we intend to gather 30 different groups

of pupils together; in which we will tease out their views on how we can improve the pupils' learning experience and help ensure we are meeting all their needs.

On the 6th February we will be carrying out 54 classroom observations across the school to compare what we view with what has been discussed in either the pupil forums or School Review Team discussions.

At the end of review process the Steering Group will analyse the results and produce a report which will influence our Improvement Planning process and help lead to adaptations in our learning and teaching practice. The report will be published in February 2012.

We would also like to give parents the opportunity to take part in a discussion forum on this issue. This will be held in Oban High School on Monday 6th February between 4 pm and 5.30 pm. Any parent is welcome to join this discussion and we would like to hear your views and ideas for improving the pupils' learning experience.

The discussion will be Chaired by Parent Council members and will include pupils from the Senior Pupil Leadership Team, a Depute Head Teacher, Quality Improvement Officer and Head Teacher from another school.

If you can join us please e-mail christine.cameron2@obanhigh.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Thank you

Peter Bain

Head Teacher